

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL NO: 15-108

v.

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SECTION: "J"

MICHAEL RAY TAYLOR

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FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **MICHAEL RAY TAYLOR** ("TAYLOR"), has agreed to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment. Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States would prove beyond a reasonable doubt, through credible testimony and reliable evidence, the following facts. Unless stated otherwise, these acts occurred in the Eastern District of Louisiana:

In August 2014, agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") began conducting an investigation into the distribution of methamphetamine in Houma, Louisiana. Through their investigation, agents developed information that a cooperating defendant ("CD") was receiving packages of methamphetamine via Fed Ex. On August 13, 2014, a Fed Ex employee contacted Louisiana State Police ("LSP") to report a suspicious package that was addressed to CD's residence. Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office, who was working with LSP, obtained a search warrant to open the package, and in doing so, recovered approximately 112 grams of methamphetamine hidden inside of a plastic cell phone case. Law enforcement arrested CD.

Shortly thereafter, CD identified **TAYLOR** as an individual who had sent the package, and who had been routinely sending methamphetamine to CD via Fed Ex. CD explained that he had been introduced to **TAYLOR**, who lived in Houston, Texas, as someone who could provide

methamphetamine. In 2013, CD had gone to Texas to meet with **TAYLOR**, at which time they discussed **TAYLOR's** ability to send methamphetamine in the mail to CD in Houma.

DEA and Terrebonne Parish police began investigating the packages of methamphetamine that were being received by CD. Through Fed Ex records, DEA was able to identify twenty-five packages that were sent between October 2013 and August 2014 from a "Robert Drake" in Texas to CD in Houma. CD could not remember every shipment, but acknowledged that almost all of these shipments likely contained methamphetamine.

Through investigation, law enforcement learned that **TAYLOR** was married to Leslie Annette Peck, and that together they used the name "Robert Drake" as an alias to disguise the true identity of the sender of the packages of methamphetamine. For each package, CD would coordinate the shipment by texting or calling **TAYLOR**. Either **TAYLOR** or Peck would package the shipment of methamphetamine at a local Fed Ex and ship the package to CD. Agents obtained in-store surveillance videos from Fed Ex in Houston for six of the packages sent from "Robert Drake" to CD's residence. Three of the videos showed **TAYLOR** dropping off the packages of methamphetamine; the other three videos showed Peck dropping off the packages of methamphetamine.

CD initially paid for the methamphetamine shipments using a green dot card, which allowed CD to place money on the card that **TAYLOR** and Peck could access from Texas. Eventually, CD started paying for the methamphetamine in cash via Fed Ex shipments. From May 2014 through August 2014, CD sent seven (7) packages of cash to **TAYLOR** and Peck using the recipient names "Ray Taylor," "R. Taylor," "Leslie Peck," and "Annette Peck." Each of these packages was a payment for a methamphetamine shipment. CD sent six of the seven


packages to the same address, 11510 Normont Drive, Houston, TX. This was the address of **TAYLOR** and Peck's residence.

Unrelated to DEA's investigation in Houma, on or around October 6, 2014, one of **TAYLOR** and Peck's neighbors inadvertently received a package addressed to **TAYLOR** at 11510 Normont Drive. When the neighbors opened the package, they saw that it contained numerous drugs and drug paraphernalia. The neighbors notified the Houston authorities. On October 10, 2014, officers executed a search warrant on 11510 Normont Drive, during which they recovered a variety of narcotics, including approximately 32 grams of methamphetamine, along with almost two dozen assorted handguns, rifles and shotguns, many of which were loaded. At least one of the guns, a Sig Sauer .40 caliber pistol, was seized in plain view on top of a nightstand in the master bedroom. **TAYLOR** and Peck were inside of the house at the time of the warrant.


TAYLOR and the government stipulate for the purposes of sentencing that **TAYLOR** was responsible for between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms or more of a mixture containing methamphetamine, through **TAYLOR's** own conduct and the reasonably foreseeable conduct of his co-conspirators.

Limited Nature of Factual Basis


This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **TAYLOR**, but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal basis for **TAYLOR's** plea of guilty to the charged offenses.

 6/23/16

Brandon S. Long (Date)
Assistant United States Attorney

 6/23/2016

Dylan C. Utley (Date)
Counsel for Defendant Michael Ray Taylor

 6/23/16

Michael Ray Taylor (Date)
Defendant